

Bremer's Term Is Reduced

Gov. Wallace Assailant Gets 10-Year Break

By Philip A. McCombs
Washington Post Staff Writer

A three-judge Prince George's Circuit Court panel yesterday struck 10 years from Arthur H. Bremer's 63-year prison sentence imposed for shooting Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace and three others in a Laurel shopping center May 15.

The reduction was announced after a brief court hearing at which Bremer denounced the 63-year sentence as "distortedly severe and harsh" and said he was "an easy target of repression" in a political year.

The lower sentence means that Bremer would be eligible for parole in late 1985—2½ years sooner—according to State's Attorney Arthur A. Marshall Jr., who prosecuted Bremer. Marshall predicted yesterday's decision would encourage "frivolous" requests for reduced sentences by other inmates.

Bremer's attorney, Benjamin Lipsitz, said it was "unreasonable" that Bremer was given longer sentences for assaulting Wallace than for assaulting each of the others as he tried to assassinate the Alabama governor.

"Why is the sentence more severe in the instance of Gov. Wallace than in the others?" Lipsitz demanded.

The judges, who did not announce the reason for their decision, equalized the punishments for the four assaults, taking a total of 10 years from the sentence.

Wearing gray slacks and a

blue knit golf shirt, Bremer stood before the judges and said in a loud voice:

"I ask you to forget the obvious political gratuities. This is a court of law. The sentence is distortedly severe and harsh. As opposed to a recipient of justice, I have been a victim of a grave injustice."

"Sixty-three years is more than a life sentence. I submit that 63 years is such a sentence that is not law, but terror—the act of repressive government, the very type of government our fighting men combat in Vietnam."

See BREMER, C6, Col. 1

Bremer's Jail Term Cut by 10 Years

BREMER, From C1

"In the heart of a political year, I was an easy target of repression. I pray for reduction of this sentence."

Bremer was convicted Aug. 4 by a 12-member jury after a week-long trial at which some psychiatrists testified that Bremer was mentally ill and shot Wallace in a schizophrenic frenzy. The jury, however, found he was legally sane at the time of the shooting.

Bremer was originally sentenced by Chief Judge Ralph W. Powers to 15 years, the maximum allowed, for the assault on Wallace with intent to kill, and for an additional 10 years for each count of assault with intent to kill the other three: campaign worker Dora Thompson, Alabama State Trooper Edred C. Dothard and U.S. Secret Service Agent Nicholas Zarvos.

Powers set these sentences to run consecutively, for a total of 45 years. Yesterday the judges reduced the 15-year Wallace segment of the sentence to 10 years, making it equal to the others and bringing the total to 40 years.

In addition, Powers had also sentenced Bremer to 15 years, again the maximum allowed, for illegally using a handgun to commit a felony against Wallace, and to 10 years each for the same crime against the other three. These sentences were set to run concurrently, for a total of 15 years.

The judges yesterday reduced the 15-year Wallace segment to 10 years, making the new total 10 years.

Bremer was also sentenced to another three years for carrying a gun illegally. He still faces federal charges stemming from the Laurel shooting.

Bremer, the blond, 22-year-old former Milwaukee busboy who wanted to rise to world-wide fame by assassinating the President but ended up shooting Wallace instead, was whisked to the Upper Marlboro courthouse in a car yesterday from the Maryland State Penitentiary in Baltimore where he is serving his term. After the hearing, Bremer, wearing a bullet-proof vest, was hustled through the halls by sheriff's deputies.